

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

SOLUTION-ORIENTED REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Friday, June 1, 2007
MCLE, Boston

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR AS A LEARNING DISABILITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT, AND PLACEMENT

Dr. Greene will provide an overview of Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS), a model of understanding and treating kids with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. The model views challenging behavior as a form of learning disability and provides an alternative form of treatment focusing on solving problems and remediating lagging cognitive skills. The model has been productively applied to families, schools, inpatient units, residential facilities, and juvenile detention centers.

Ross W. Greene, Ph.D., Director, Collaborative Problem Solving Institute, Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital

10:30 **QUIRKY KIDS: UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM**

This talk will focus on the diagnosis, co-morbidities, treatment and prognosis for kids with disorders from nonverbal learning disability to Asperger's. Dr. Costello will review the terminology, best interventions and medications, as well as suggest strategies for communicating with clients with these disorders.

Eileen M. Costello, M.D., Staff Pediatrician, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center; Co-author, *"Quirky Kids: Understanding and Helping Your Child Who Doesn't Fit In,"* Ballantine, 2004

11:30 **PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY ISSUES IN CHILD ROGERS CASES**

Dr. Milosavljevic's presentation will cover the most commonly used medications for children with mental illness including appropriate dosages, combinations and side effects. She will also touch upon off-label use and challenges in research on psychopharmacology.

Nada Milosavljevic, M.D., J.D., Forensic Psychiatry Fellow, Law and Psychiatry Service, Massachusetts General Hospital

12:30 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30 **A VIEW FROM THE BENCH**

Honorable Jay D. Blitzman, Associate Justice, Juvenile Court Department, Middlesex County Division

2:00 **RECENT AND IMPORTANT CASE LAW DEVELOPMENTS**

This session will focus on significant national and local court decisions and settlements that affect children and adolescents with mental illness. Particular attention will be paid to adolescent development, treatment of GLTB youth in the juvenile justice system, diversion from detention and long term residential care through the use of community based services, access to attorneys post adjudication and *Rosie D.* which establishes a right to behavioral services in home and community-based settings.

Robert D. Fleischer, J.D. Assistant Director, Center for Public Representation

Frank J. Laski, J.D., Executive Director, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee

3:30 **HELPING TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN LEARN**

This panel will discuss research on the impact trauma from exposure to abuse, neglect, and witnessing family violence can have on learning, behavior, and relationships at school. The panelists will suggest ways to advocate for school-wide environments and individual supports that can enable traumatized children to focus, behave appropriately, and become successful learners.

Susan Cole, J.D., M.Ed., Director, Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, Massachusetts Advocates for Children and Harvard Law School

Joe Ristuccia, Ed.M., School Psychologist